

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00145 291149Z

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 /020 W

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O R 291137Z AUG 75 ZFF-6

FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0110

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 00145

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM EILTS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: KALB

REF: STATE 204869

1. RE REFTEL I AM DISTURBED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT WITH RESPECT TO KALB'S ALLEGED CLAIM TO HAVE TO GET TO CAIRO. WHEN YOUR PARTY ARRIVED, I WAS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED WITH REQUEST, ON KALB'S REQUEST, TO APPROVE AN EGYPTIAN FLIGHT TO CAIRO. I DID SO IN AN EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL.

2. IT NOW APPEARS, CONTRARY TO REFTEL SAYING TWO NETWORK CORRESPONDENTS (ONE OF WHOM WE WERE INFORMED WAS KALB) AND FIVE CREW MEMBERS HAD TO BE IN CAIRO NLT 2130. THERE WAS IN FACT NO RPT NO SUCH NEED. IN EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL, WE MADE SPECIAL EFFORT WITH EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE TO GET MILITARY HELICOPTER FOR KALB. EGYPTIANS WHO, AS YOU KNOW, ARE ALREADY HARD-PRESSED IN HANDLING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, SOUGHT TO BE ACCOMMODATING TO OUR URGENT REQUIREMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER DELAYING HELICOPTER DEPARTURE FOR ONE HOUR, KALB INFORMED US HE HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING TO CAIRO, BUT PLANNED TO SEND LOCAL CREW. HIS PARTING COMMENTS, WHEN BOARDING BUS TO NUZHA, WAS TO INSTRUCT RUSSELL TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR SATURDAY.

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3. I REQUEST YOU TO MAKE CLEAR TO KALB THAT, UNLESS HE OR ANOTHER AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IS GOING TO CAIRO, THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO SPECIAL HELICOPTER LAID ON. WHILE THE EGYPTIANS WANT TO BE HELPFUL TO OUR PARTY, THEY WERE MIFFED WHEN THE ONLY PASSENGERS ON THE SPECIAL MILITARY AIRCRAFT WERE SIX EGYPTIANS AND ONE EUROPEAN, ALL LOCAL STRINGERS. PLEASE GET ACROSS TO KALB THAT HE IS A GUEST HERE AND YOU EXPECT HIM TO ACT AS ONE.

4. CONTRARY TO REFTEL, TRANSMISSION TIME OUT OF CAIRO IS 2400. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS NO REASON WHY KALB CANNOT ARRANGE A CAR TO DRIVE TO ALEXANDRIA TO CAIRO AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST.

5. I WANT TO STRESS THAT THE CAVALIER TREATMENT KALB METED OUT TO THE EGYPTIANS LAST NIGHT IS HURTING THE IMAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISITS.
EILTS

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